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FRANK PORTRAIT OF A BONN MINISTER

The West German "Ministry for Refugees" has an unsavoury reputation of being run by really unpleasant old nazis. Refugee Minister Oberländer, former storm troop major, had to be sacked in May 1960 after he had been convicted in absentia by a GDR court for his part in numerous war crimes, in particular a brutal pogrom in Lvov in 1941; and Refugee Minister Hans Krüger, former nazi judge, was dismissed in January 1964 after nazi documents had been produced showing his part judicial crimes in occupied Poland.

Hans Krüger's successor is Ernst Lemmer, roly-poly Christian Democrat. At first sight, and relying upon the biographical details given in the official West German Parliamentary Handbook, Herr Lemmer would appear to have an unexceptionable past.

"Born 1898. Took part in World War One. From 1922 to 1933 Secretary-General of the Trade Union Ring of German Workers' and Officials' Unions. 1924 to 1932 and 1933 member of the Reichstag (German State Party)" states the 1961 edition of this official handbook. The 1954 edition includes: *From 1933 to 1945, Berlin correspondent of foreign newspapers"*, a sentence tactfully omitted from later editions; the reasons for this omission will be seen below.

But is the record of 66-year-old Ernst Lemmer really so peaceful and liberal as these short biographical notes would suggest? Let us look a little closer. All details given below are based upon official documents and publications, the authenticity of which Herr Lemmer has never questioned.

Lemmer described the work of his right-wing "Trade Union Ring" in the preface to a book published in 1931 in Berlin, "For the Freedom of the Nation":

"Our loyalty to the nation was expressed in action. This was so in the Great War, in the confusion of the revolution and in the post-war period.

"Wherever the national need arose, we stood in the front ranks of unconditional fulfilment of duty... We recall our association's attitude and achievements during the war. We recall the confusion of the revolution, which we defied. The forward-streaming flood of Bolshevism broke against the resistance of the trade unions. We recall the struggle to secure and build up the Folk State."

Lemmer was one of the members of the Reichstag who voted in March 1933 for the Enabling Act which gave Hitler dictatorial powers. He also issued a statement supporting Hitler on behalf of his "Trade Union Ring":

"The free national trade unions wish to place their cooperation at the disposal of the present government which, with responsible state power, has the task of determining the fate of the entire German people." (March 14th 1933.)

There is no record that Ernst Lemmer was ever a member of the Nazi Party. But he worked throughout the nazi period as Berlin correspondent of newspapers in Switzerland, Belgium and Hungary. As a German national he could only do this with the specific permission of Goebbel's Propaganda Ministry.

Goebbels noted on April 23rd 1942 in his personal diary (edited by Louis Lochner, published in New York, London and Zurich in 1948) that Lemmer had accompanied the Japanese Ambassador in Berlin, General Hirosi Oshima, on an extended war-time tour of nazi-occupied Southeast Europe. The diary makes it clear that Lemmer made the trip as an agent of the Propaganda Ministry and that he submitted a detailed report to the Ministry in which he stressed that Oshima had given his full support to Axis policy.

The papers for which Lemmer wrote during the nazi period were the liberal "Berner Bund" in Switzerland, the "Pester Lloyd", one of the most influential papers in fascist Hungary and, after 1940, "Le Soir", a quisling paper in occupied Brussels.

Proof that Lemmer deliberately planted stories in the foreign press for the nazi Propaganda Ministry is revealed by a report sent by him to the Ministry on November 2nd 1936 on an article he had written for the "Berner Bund" warning of possible reprisals against Jews in Germany if foreign newspapers continued to criticise nazi treatment of the Jewish population. His report concluded: *"I believe that the formulation meets our wishes, but is so expressed that it will really be published in the liberal Swiss paper which I serve. Heil Hitler."* (For full details see GERMAN REPORT March 6th 1964 and February 14th 1958).

Herr Lemmer's journalistic activities during the nazi era can best be studied in his frequent reports to "Pester Lloyd" of Budapest and "Le Soir" of Brussels. Here is a selection:

"The German people feel that this (the annexation of Austria — ed.) is an act of world-wide historical importance... There can of course be no doubt about the undivided approval of the German people. More than 73 million Germans are now united in a single state union... It can be no surprise to anyone that broad strata of the German people are now buoyed up on a wave of patriotic enthusiasm..." **("Pester Lloyd", March 17th 1938).**

"Adolf Hitler has become within one decade a great historic figure. His way as a politician has been marked by instinct and cleverness. Hitler created the Greater German Reich, ensured its total internal unity and strengthened its exterior power in an unparalleled fashion." **("Pester Lloyd", April 20th 1939** — Hitler's 50th birthday).

"The working conditions of the foreign workers (forced labour shipped to Germany — ed.) correspond in general to those of similar German workers. They all enjoy the advantage of social insurance, receive medical care, have the right to

(cont. from front page)

BONN MINISTER

holidays and can send part of their wages to their families. . .", **("Le Soir", July 13th 1941).**

". . . in the course of the past months French, Belgian and Dutch workers have come in their tens of thousands to swell the ranks of their comrades already working in Reich factories." **("Le Soir", September 29th 1942).**

"England has been proclaimed the main enemy; the German war is aimed primarily against England, whose military defeat is regarded as essential in Berlin for the New Order envisaged by German diplomacy." **("Pester Lloyd", May 16th 1940).**

"There can be no surprise that the use of the new offensive weapon (the buzz-bombs — ed.) against Britain has greatly pleased the German population. Now the time of retribution has come. We can now accept the official assurance that the first use of the new German weapon on June 16th was only a beginning and that we may expect more." **("Pester Lloyd", June 20th 1944).**

"It must be remembered that England, not Germany, began the war in Western Europe." **("Pester Lloyd", July 2nd 1940).**

"He (leading French collaborator Laval — ed.) is to be trusted in his national aspirations for a new anti-Bolshevist Europe. It is firmly believed that this French statesman is determined to carry out his foreign political programme, which is based primarily upon a new orientation in German-French relations. Laval's statement in which he confronted France with a clear choice between Moscow and Berlin has made a deep impression in Berlin." **("Le Soir", April 24th 1942).**

* * *

After the war Lemmer was for many years editor of the West Berlin "Kurier" and chairman of the Christian Democratic Union fraction in the West Berlin House of Representatives. He has been a member of the West German Federal Parliament since 1952. He was Minister of Posts in 1956 and Minister for All-German Affairs in the West German Federal Government from 1957 to 1962.

Delegation

A Free German Youth delegation from the GDR joined an international work camp in Sweden in July and early August. They helped build a school in Dormsjö.

GDR PLAN REPORT SHOWS HEALTHY GROWTH

Total industrial production in the GDR increased by about 7% in the first half of 1964 compared with the same period of 1963, according to figures issued by the Central Statistical Administration. Average wages in nationally owned industry were 2.4% higher.

Industry

In the chemical industry as a whole production increased by about 9%, with increases of about 12% in mineral oil processing and 10% in the electrochemical and plastics industries. The overall increase in electronics was also about 9%, with very much bigger increases in output of construction elements and vacuum technology (23%), electrical plant (15%) and electric power (13%).

Plan targets were reached in most of the key industries, and in almost all cases production was higher than in the first half of 1963.

Building and Investments

7.1 thousand million marks were invested during the first half of this year — over 11% more than in the same period of last year. A number of new enterprises started operating; these included the first section of the new mineral oil processing plant in Schwedt, which has a capacity of 2 million tons of oil a year, a lubricating plant in Lützkendorf, additional loading and unloading plant in Rostock deep-sea harbour and an excavating plant with a capacity of 6,000,000 tons a year in the Seese open-cast lignite mines.

Housing

24,000 dwellings were completed in the first half of 1964 and at the end of June there were 54,000 more in various stages of construction.

Agriculture

There was a big increase in the supply of table poultry (over 47% more than during the first half of 1963) and satisfactory increases in butcher's meat. The supply of milk increased by less than 5% and the yield per cow is still too low.

Nearly 70% more artifical fertiliser (15% more nitrates, 16% more phosphates and 41% more lime) was spread on the fields.

Transport and Communications

About 8% more goods were transported this half year compared with the first half of 1963. The biggest increase was in shipping; nearly as much freight was moved as during the whole of 1962.

There was a big extension in automatic telephone communications.

Foreign and Inner-German Trade

Exports during the first half of 1964 were valued at just over 5 thousand million marks — over 10% more than during the corresponding period of last year. Exports to the Soviet Union rose by 192 millon marks. There was a 30% increase in exports to capitalist countries.

The value of imports increased by 9%; imports from the emergent countries increased by about 25%.

Trade turnover with West Germany increased by 27%, while the previous level was maintained in trade with West Berlin.

Diptheria Banished

The incidence of diphtheria in the GDR has declined steeply since compulsory inoculation was introduced in January 1961. 3,176 people — mostly children — were ill with diphtheria in 1961, 1,473 in 1962, 771 in 1963 and only 146 in the first half of 1964.

Fifty-one patients died in 1961, 21 in 1962 and only 2 in 1963.

The law introduced in 1961 required that all children be inoculated against diphteria and tetanus between the age of 1 and 2 and again between 5 and 6.

An additional law which came into force on May 26th this year requires a third inoculation of all children between 11 and 12. The combined serum, injected under the skin, now protects children against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping-cough. It is more effective and causes less discomfort than the previous substance.

The deaths from diphtheria registered since 1961 have all been of non-inoculated patients or patients who had received only one inoculation.

Children's Holidays

Children from 25 countries are spending their holidays at a big summer camp on Werbellin Lake near Berlin this year. Amongst them are children from Zanzibar, Cyprus, Mali, Columbia, Morocco, France, England, Finland and Switzerland.

Fifty Years Back

Round the Berlin Press in 1914

What were the German newspapers writing about fifty years ago, as the Kaiser's Armies marched out at the beginning of the First World War? On this page we present a small selection of articles, serious and not so serious, from the Berlin press of 1914. Headlines and news items are faithful translations from the original German.

THE KAISER LEAVES FOR THE FRONT

... Our ruler, who has won for himself the name of a prince of peace, was forced to draw his sharp sword, forced by the treachery and despicable conduct of the enemy... True to Hohenzollern traditions, Kaiser Wilhelm II left for the front yesterday, to be near to the historic events drawing near.

Vossische Zeitung, August 17th 1914

WHY THE KING OF SAXONY IS NOT GOING TO THE FRONT

It is semi-officially announced that King Friedrich August has made the sacrifice of not accompanying his troops to the front; his decision is probably governed by the thought so often expressed by Bismarck in 1870 that the respect due to a crowned head often makes the task of war-guidance more difficult...

Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, August 22nd 1914

THE GERMAN FIST

... Antwerp, Belgium's main fortress has not yet been taken . . . but we can await with cheerful calm the further measures to be taken by our Army Command. One thing is certain: Belgium has ceased to exist... No change in the fortunes of war can prevent this changing of the map of Europe.

Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, August 22nd 1914

WOMEN IN WARTIME

The Bavarian League for Women's Suffrage has made a useful proposal: it has addressed itself to the Society for the Protection of Animals, pointing out that in the battles the helpless animals are generally left to their fate. The League is taking up a collection to send out first aid men to care for horses...

Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, August 22nd 1914

CAR-RIDE TO LIEGE

Four men from Elberfeld made a car-ride to Liege on Monday. They reported: The German soldiers are forbidden to accept food or drinks from civilians, because they have often been offered poisoned ham sandwiches, which have caused the death of a number of German soldiers. The German command has issued an order that on the approach of German troops, civilians should salute with one hand to their hats, and the other in the air...

Vossische Zeitung, August 22nd 1914

POOR FRANCE!

A transport with about 1100 French POWs has passed through Aschaffenburg. They were all of them short, weak, flabby soldiers. One of the officers who could speak a little German, asked for a newspaper, and complained of the great misfortune which had overtaken France.

Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, August 23rd 1914

THE RIGHT ACTION!

The entire Belgian press, with the exception of Antwerp, is now appearing in German. The Governor appointed by Germany has ordered the further steps. It is expected that the French language will be retained side-by-side with German.

Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, August 25th 1914

THE IRON CROSS FOR OUR CROWN PRINCE

The Kaiser has awarded our Crown Prince the Iron Cross, First and Second Class. He informed the Crown Princess in the following telegram:

"Deepest thanks, my dear child. I rejoice with you over Wilhelm's first victory. God stood staunchly at his side, thanks and honour be to Him. I have awarded him Iron Cross First und Second Class. Oskar is reported to have fought brilliantly with his grenadiers, he has received Iron Cross Second Class, tell Ina-Marie. God protect and help the boys further, and may He be with you and all women. Papa Wilhelm."

. . . Truly the simplest citizen cannot speak more simply with his child than here the Kaiser with his daughter-in-law. Only a few words, but with a charm of their own, showing the joy, cares and trust in God of a monarch and a father.

Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, August 25th 1914

AGAINST UNTRUTHFULNESS

By Gerhart Hauptmann

We are above all a peaceful people. Bergson, the superficial Paris essayist, may call us barbarians; Maeterlinck, great poet and blinded Gallophile, may award us similar pretty titles; but the world knows that we are a nation of old culture...

... We possess a German poet, whose dramas have become part of the national heritage as no other German poet: his name is Shakespeare.

Vossische Zeitung, August 26th 1914

MUSIC TEACHERS IN WARTIME NEED

The Board of the Berlin Association of Musicians appeals urgently to all music-loving families to resume their music lessons, and thus save from complete unemployment the heavily-hit music teachers...

Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, August 28th 1914

THE NOBLE HEART OF A GERMAN OFFICER

A report from Homburg states: A German officer, who was forced to have an innkeeper and his wife executed in France in the fight against francs tireurs, has adopted the four-year-old son of the couple, and sent him home to his wife, who has no children.

Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, August 31st 1914

(to be continued)

NEW SCHOOLS FOR NEW TIMES (3)

By Joan Becker

Vocational training has always been taken very seriously in the GDR. Article 38 of the Constitution lays down that: "Schooling is compulsory up to and including the age of 18 years. After passing through elementary school ... the pupil goes on to a trade or specialised school, senior school or some other public educational institution. Attendance at the trade school is compulsory ... where the pupil does not go to another grade of school."

A network of general trade schools was set up soon after the end of World War Two and the first factory vocational schools were opened in a number of nationally owned enterprises in 1948. Central trade schools served rural areas and there were general trade schools for young apprentices in small enterprises, crafts or trades. Apprentices attended these schools on two or three days a week and did their practical training in a factory, on the farm or elsewhere.

From the outset there was a graduated scale of pay for apprentices and the same health services free of charge as for children attending other schools. Annual holidays are also guaranteed.

The number of factory vocational schools increased rapidly and attention was now directed towards a better correlation of practical and theoretical training, until in 1954 the entire training of apprentices was placed under unified direction, for which factory directors were responsible. This unitary system of vocational training had been introduced into all branches of industry by 1956.

In 1959 there were 619 of these factory vocational schools and 597 general vocational schools, in all of which trainees received a minimum of fourteen hours' general education a week. *(According to a report in the West German liberal weekly, "Die Zeit", July 10th 1964, 70 per cent of apprentices in West German vocational schools receive less than the statutory 8 hours' general education).*

So far it had been a question of either vocational training or higher education. A long-standing criticism of German education was that it was too academic and that young people who had the advantage of higher education were often divorced from real life and not prepared for earning a practical living or for applying their knowledge for the good of the community.

During the whole course of the 1950's much thought had been devoted to the problem of bridging the gulf between the so-called "educated" and "un-educated". The ideas of earlier pedagogues and progressive philosophers — who had all been convinced of the importance of some form of practical training for all school children — were scrutinised specifically from this point of view, and ideas presented as to how this could be achieved in the course of building up socialism in the GDR.

A solution was found by transferring a considerable part of basic vocational training right into the general schools. Some of the earlier ten-year middle schools did pioneer work to demonstrate that this was a satisfactory solution, and the Education Law passed in December 1959 introduced ten-year compulsory polytechnical education for all.

Vocational training proper today starts at a much higher level than would have been possible even ten years ago. Not only has the general standard of education steadily improved since ten-year compulsory education was introduced, polytechnical training in all schools now gives children a useful preliminary grounding in practical skills, basic technical knowledge and principles of socialist economy.

In general, children now leaving ten-year polytechnical high school take a two-year skilled workers' course following upon the basic training they have had at school; about 20 per cent of school leavers enter three-year courses to train as skilled workers and at the same time study for "Abitur" (about British GCE — A level). A small proportion may still leave school at 14 and train for two and a half or three years in a normal trade or factory vocational school.

Children attending 12-year high school have in general taken basic polytechnical training and have then been required to train as skilled workers for a shorter period — one and a half years — or to do one year of practical work before entering university. In the past two years a new system has gradually been introduced in accordance with which 14 to 18-year-olds in 12-year high schools take a complete skilled workers' course along with their studies for "Abitur".

Thus by the age of 18 or 19 all young people have acquired considerable practicall skill and theoretical knowledge in some branch of industry, agriculture or trade.

But these developments have not always proceeded smoothly; there have been many difficulties and stumbling-blocks.

Opportunities are in fact available for 15 and 16 year-olds to take basic training in preparation for a very large number of vocations, predominantly in the most important fields such as engineering, metallurgy, electricity, electrotechnics and electronics, the chemical industry, transport, building and agriculture.

But it has not always been easy for schools to find enough training places in factories and other enterprises, or for the enterprises to work out the right kind of useful practical and theoretical time-tables for the short time available — generally one day a week and two or three periods of two consecutive weeks at different seasons.

Schools found that they had children from one class attending a

Lag in W. Germany

"The laws of all the Federal Provinces provide for a minimum of 8 hours' general education a week in the vocational training schools. In most provinces not even half the classes receive this minimum... In Rhineland-Pfalz 78.8 per cent of all classes receive less, in North Rhine-Westphalia 70 per cent, in Lower Saxony 60.8 per cent... In 1926 Cologne vocational training school syllabuses provided for 8 hours of general education and 10 hours in the more difficult trades. The provinces mentioned have fallen behind the standard considered usual up to 1933...

"In North Rhine-Westphalia 28.7 per cent, in Rhineland-Pfalz 13.1 per cent and in Baden-Württemberg 10.2 per cent of all vocational training schools provide less than 6 hours' general education a week. In 1906 the trade school in Neuss provided 6 hours' general education plus religious instruction; this school now includes religious instruction in the 6 hours. The situation in these provinces is in many places worse than it was before the Constitution of 1919 introduced compulsory vocational training..." (Horst Wetterling, "Die Zeit", West Germany, 10th July 1964)

number of different factories, or they had different classes going to factories on different days in the week, so that it was difficult to keep a check on their progress and also to arrange their school time-tables. It was often difficult, too, to find the right kind of training for each child.

Since the original idea had been the more general one of helping young people to learn the value of physical work and to learn to respect the working people, the choice of training had not always been carefully considered from the point of view of economic needs, so that children did not always have the chance to continue in the same field after leaving school. This meant that basic training had to some extent been wasted.

Various efforts have therefore made to concentrate in one school on one or two kinds of basic polytechnical training and to co-ordinate school work along the same lines. This has many advantages, but it can also cause difficulties; children may have to travel long distances daily to get to the specific school which offers the kind of polytechnical training for which they are suited. Too narrow specialisation must also be avoided; basic training has to be of a kind which can be useful in a number of fields.

The new draft law now suggests that no class should be divided into more than two groups taking basic polytechnical training suitable for a number of allied jobs, and that the type of training provided be subject to careful planning and coordination, so as to ensure that it fits in with over-all economic planning. It stresses that efforts must begin much earlier to familiarise children with the needs of the economy and the kinds of training most in demand, and to direct their interests and talents into the most useful channels. A detailed catalogue has now been issued which describes over 300 different vocations for which training can be provided.

Vocational training schools and instructors in factories and on farms have also put forward some suggestions about the hours of work; the general feeling appears to be that children do not benefit to the full from the existing arrangement of one day's training supplemented by the longer periods. The new draft now takes up their suggestion that two days a week or one week a month be devoted to polytechnical education and the longer periods dispensed with, since it is often difficult to provide large numbers of children with useful work over these periods.

The draft law points out that arrangements in different industries might very well vary; so long as the over-all general and polytechnical educational aims are achieved it should not be necessary to have absolutely identical time tables in all schools (This is a revolutionary change for the GDR; until a few years ago it was a matter of pride that schools all over the country were teaching identical lessons on almost the same day!) However, a number of possible solutions will have to be tried out before the best arrangements can be decided upon.

There will undoubtedly be a certain degree of local specialisation; rural schools will tend to train children in various branches of agriculture, crafts or small local industries, while schools in big industrial centres will tend to concentrate on the main industries in the district, because of the better training facilities and prospects of good jobs.

The draft law suggests that the percentage of pupils leaving ten-year high school and taking 3-year "Abitur" courses with their skilled workers' training should now be increased considerably beyond the present 20 per cent and that the course could be completed in two years. This will certainly cause much discussion, since it would mean a great deal of very hard work. The idea behind the suggestion is that the number of young people who are now well enough educated and intelligent enough to reach university standard is steadily increasing.

Even under the new law a very small percentage of children will continue to leave school at 14 and train for two or three years in trades which cannot well be combined with high school education.

The draft also leaves open for discussion exactly how vocational training is to be conducted in the final two years of 12-year high school following the basic training provided for all 15 and 16 year-olds. This will depend upon the future types of senior high school, i. e., whether the suggestions are taken up about a new orientation on technical fields instead of the present three branches — arts, science and classics. In any case, the draft recommends that the practical year's work hitherto required of high school graduates before they enter university should in most cases be dropped.

The various specialised schools prepare their most outstanding pupils for vocations in which a particularly high standard is required; they would provide some of the personnel needed in science, research and culture, the draft suggests.

In a final section, the draft stresses that all kinds of vocational training must be very carefully planned and coordinated, to make sure that the correct proportions are maintained in training personnel for a planned economy.

Schools and enterprises are, of course, expected to exercise their own initiative in recruiting children for training, but over-all planning, content, development, organisation and financing of all kinds of vocational training is in the hands of the State Planning Commission. The National Economic Council guides training in each branch of industry and the Agricultural Council in agriculture and forestry. Other central government bodies (railways, postal services etc.) are responsible in their own fields.

The Ministry of Education is responsible for coordinating general and polytechnical education along the lines laid down by the State Planning Commission, and the Labour and Employment Advisory Offices advise all school leavers on the work they should take up.

(This is the concluding article in a series on education in the GDR. Previous articles were published in GERMAN REPORT on June 26th and July 10th.)

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STANDARD OF LIVING

"The West Germans are pushing out figures alleged to prove that the standard of living in the GDR is far lower than in West Germany. Can you deal with this subject in some detail?" **R. T., Aberdeen**

Anyone who has ever tried to compare standards of living in two countries knows that it is extremely difficult to give a precise comparison. Simply listing prices does little good; the price of bread may be very low, but if wages are low, too, this means little. Another confusing element is introduced by the "invisible" factors: social services, educational system, holidays, nursery schools etc.

On the "visible" level the standard of living is rather lower in the GDR than in West Germany. Prices for long-lasting consumer goods such as cars and TV sets are certainly higher in the GDR, though the differential is slowy disappearing. On the other hand, the educational system, opportunities to get ahead and social services in the GDR are unquestionably better in the GDR than in West Germany.

Here are some facts and figures which reflect the situation and help explain how it came about:

1. West Germany, with its huge coal and steel industry, and other highly developed industries, had a better starting position than the GDR. This meant that a higher proportion of the national product had to be devoted to capital investments in the GDR, but these will soon pay off as the economy continues to expand. (see Box 1)

2. The age grouping is at present most unfavourable in the GDR. Population losses in the two world wars, and the policy of luring workers away from the GDR pursued by West Germany up to August 13th 1961, resulted in a big increase in the proportion of children and pensioners to workers. In 1939 there were 481 children and pensioners to every 1,000 head of the population; in 1962 the figure had risen to 737. The number of pensioners is still going up and will increase from 315 per thousand in 1962 to 373 per thousand in 1970, but by 1980 it will have dropped again to 316. This will still be far the highest figure in Europe. For purposes of comparison, the figures for some European countries in 1960 were: GDR — 289 pensioners per 1,000 of the population; France — 188; Italy — 138; Sweden — 181; Switzerland — 152 and Great Britain — 180.

Box 1

Percentage of GDR National Product Devoted to Investment and Consumption

	1950	1955	1690	1961	1962
Capital investment	8.4	12.3	19.1	18.1	20.4
Consumption	91.6	87.7	80.9	81.9	79.6

This means that a very large proportion of the national product must be used to provide pensions; workers must in fact contribute a big proportion of their work to providing the wherewithal to care for old people.

Of a total population of 17.1 million, there were in 1962 9.9 million men and women of working age of whom 7.8 million were actually working, and 3.1 million pensioners. The proportion of women going out to work increased between 1952 and 1962 from 52 to 62 per cent; at present about 70 per cent of women are working, but there are limits to this process and the total number of persons working dropped slightly in 1963 and will continue to decline for some years, because of the unfavourable birthrate in the immediate post-war years.

The extension of school-leaving age from fourteen to sixteen has also had an unfavourable effect on the labour force, but constitutes a valuable investment in knowledge which will pay off in the future.

3. A valuable indication of the rising standard of living in the GDR is the steady increase in workers' wages. The average monthly earnings of full-time workers and office workers in socialist enterprises increased from 311 marks in 1950 to 584 marks in 1962. (see Box 2)

Box 2

Wage Increases

	1955	1962
	marks	
State-owned industry	460	604
State-owned building	446	627
Agriculture and forestry	357	534
Postal services	345	546
Communications	433	619
State-owned retail trade	380	500
Cooperative retail trade	335	485
Overall Average	432	584

Since in most families more than one person is earning, average monthly net income in workers' families was 765 marks in 1962.

4. The distribution of individual consumption and expenditure varies very considerably in the two German states. (see Box 3)

Box 3

Individual Consumption and Expenditure

	GDR	West Germany
	% of income	
Expenditure on food	48	32
Industrial consumer goods	40	46
Repair and maintenance services	12	22

Expenditure on rent, coal, electricity and gas, transport etc., is very low in the GDR. Rents consume an average of only 5 % of the family income, for example. The prices of staple foods, bread, potatoes, fats and so on, are also low. On the other hand, TV sets, refrigerators, washing machines and other goods are still expensive.

The figures given in Box 4 provide some idea of price developments in

the GDR and West Germany between 1950 and 1962, but they are already out-dated; West German prices have risen steadily in the past two years, while prices in the GDR have remained stable. (The "free market" and "rationed" prices listed for some items in the GDR in 1950 remained until all foodstuffs were taken off the ration in 1957; the unitary prices then fixed were considerably higher than the former "free market" prices for surplus. A special cost-of-living supplement to lower wages and pensions meant that nobody suffered when rationing was abolished.)

Box 4

Retail Prices of Selected Goods

		1950		1962	
	Quantity	GDR	West Germany	GDR	West Germany
		(in marks)			
Potatoes	5 kg.	0.60	0.76	0.85	1.74
Wheat flour	1 kg.	2.40	0.59	1.32	1.04
Rye bread	1 kg.	0.71	0.42	0.52	0.88
Sugar – free market	1 kg.	12.00	1.18	1.64	1.23
rationed		1.20			
Pork chop – free market	1 kg.	31.50	4.25	8.00	7.02
rationed		2.50			
Beef – free market	1 kg.	28.25	3.43	9.80	7.60
rationed		2.80			
Sausage – free market	1 kg	30.00	4.79	6.80	6.33
rationed		3.30			
Butter – free market	1 kg.	36.00	5.53	10.00	7.20
rationed		4.20			
Coffee (roasted)	1 kg.	80.00	29.00	60.00	17.15
Tobacco	50 gr.	5.20	–	3.00	1.25
Electric light bulb	40 w.	5.85	1.19	1.00	1.00
Bicycle (man's)		640.00	151.00	242.00	181.00
Domestic coal	50 kg.				
free market		9.20	2.55	3.66	4.87
rationed		1.70			

5. The purchasing power of the mark in the GDR rose by 83 % between 1950 and 1963, since the increase in wages is not off-set by increasing prices, as in West Germany, where the purchasing power of the mark has decreased by 22 % during the same period.

This increase in purchasing power, coupled with a better supply of consumer goods, means that today per capita consumption of the most important foodstuffs is comparable in the two German states, with the GDR ahead in butter and West Germany in meat. (see Box 5)

Box 5

Annual per capita consumption

		GDR		West Germany
		1955	1962	1961/62
Product	Quantity			
Meat	kg	45.0	53.1	60.1
Fish	kg	12.2	13.2	12.4
Eggs		116	181	235
Butter	kg	9.5	12.0	8.8
Margerine	kg	10.4	12.1	9.7
				(1962/63)
Cheese	kg	3.0	4.0	4.5
Sugar	kg	27.4	30.2	30.0
Coffee	kg	0.287	1.52	3.26

(Figures for West Germany from Statistical Yearbook of the Federal Republic 1963; for the GDR from Statistical Yearbook of the GDR 1963.)

Box 6

Expenditure on Education, Culture, Social Services in the GDR

	1957	1958	1962
	million marks		
Education, Vocational Training, Sport	1,224	2,658	3,241
Health, Social Services	5,375	11,023	14,765
Science and Culture	943	1,669	2,276
Total	7,542	15,350	20,282

An important item which must be taken into consideration in assessing the living standard is the expenditure on social services, public health, education and culture. Budget expenditure in the GDR for these purposes increased from 7.5 thousand million marks in 1950 to 20.3 thousand million marks in 1962 – 1,186 marks per head of the population, almost double what is spent in West Germany. (see Box 6)

Benefits resulting from this huge increase include longer leave with pay for pregnant and nursing mothers (from 11 to 14 weeks), extension of school leaving age from 14 to 16, increased stipends for students, expansion of free preventive medical services (routine examinations, inoculations etc.), more hospital beds (121 per 10,000 in the GDR compared with 105 in West Germany) a rise in old-age pensions, bigger state subsidies to the social insurance scheme and a tremendous increase in the number of cheap holidays at home and abroad for workers.

GDR Fish Industry

There are 134 fisheries and fish processing enterprises in the GDR which employ nearly 14,000 workers. The biggest of these are the nationally owned combined fishery and fish processing enterprises in Rostock and Sassnitz and the fish processing factories in Rostock, Sassnitz, Lauterbach, Barth and Schwaan on the Baltic coast. These employ over 7,600 workers; 4,400 of them are fishermen and about 1,400 fish processors. The other smaller enterprises are local nationally owned, semi-state or private firms and a considerable number of ocean and coastal fishermen's cooperatives.

The nationally owned ocean fisheries now own 105 big cutters, 33 loggers, 26 trawlers, 8 fishing and fish-processing vessels, 1 transport and processing ship, 2 medical and first-aid ships and 2 research ships run in cooperation with the Institute for Ocean Fishing and Fish Processing in Rostock.

GDR Scientists Abroad

A group of ten GDR bio-chemists, including Professor Karl Lohmann, President of the GDR Society for Experimental Medicine, attended the International Bio-Chemists' Congress which opened in New York on July 27th. They were invited by the International Union of Bio-chemistry.

* * *

Professor Ursula Nürnberg of the GDR Institute for General Biology visited England at the end of July to attend the International Botanists' Congress in Cambridge.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

I was thinking of commenting in this Notebook on the very odd and philistine attitude of the West German and West Berlin authorities towards musicians and artists from the Soviet Union; but when I picked up a recent copy of "Die Zeit", a very well-edited West German weekly which might be roughly compared with the London "Observer", I found that Wolfgang Ebert, the resident satirist of the paper, had done the job better than I could ever hope to do. So over to Wolfgang Ebert:

"Why was the Bolshoi Ballet deported from the (West German) Federal Republic?" I asked my man in Bonn.

"Because they didn't want to dance in West Berlin", said he.

"But perhaps they would prefer to dance in, let us say, Hanover?"

"Then they must dance under all circumstances in West Berlin too."

"Who says so?"

"The Federal Government, headed by the Federal Chancellor."

"And they have to deal with ballet performances too? That's interesting." said I. "Perhaps they wanted to watch a performance in Berlin."

"No, they only insisted that the ballet should dance in West Berlin."

Bonn Swan?

"Did the Federal Government insist on any particular programme? Swan Lake, perhaps?"

"That's all the same to the Federal Government. They've got to dance, that's all."

"But the New York City Ballet..."

"...is allowed to dance where it likes."

"Only the Russians can't..." said I.

"No. Every Russian who wants to bang the drums, dance on the tightrope, or play the flute in West Germany must also do it in West Berlin."

"All right. But Sviatoslav Richter wanted to play in West Berlin, and was banned by the West Berlin Senate."

"Naturally. Every Russian who wants to play the piano in West Berlin must also play the piano in Braunschweig or Kassel."

"But why? Perhaps he prefers to play in Amsterdam rather than in Godesberg. There is such a thing as artistic temperament. We should be glad if at least the West Berliners heard him. Would have heard him."

"My dear fellow! You must grasp the situation. If the Russians allow Richter to play in West Berlin, then they are not thinking about music."

"What are they thinking about?" asked I.

"About our right to be sole representatives of the German people. They want to undermine this right in the concert hall, and at the same time strengthen the wall."

"Dreadful! But they must have made a mistake recently. Kogan the violinist played his violin in West Berlin and in the Federal Republic."

"Yes, but that was under the cultural exchange scheme. That is permissible. And that's why it can't be permitted in future."

"Why? Why not?"

"Because of the Soviet 'three state' theory."

"What does this theory say?"

"The Russians claim that there are three separate states: the Federal Republic, the German Democratic Republic, and West Berlin."

"It sounds very theoretical. And what is our theory?"

"The 'one state' theory. There is only the Federal Republic plus West Berlin."

"Very contradictory theories. But in practice the votes of the West Berlin delegates to the Federal Parliament are counted separately, aren't they?"

"Yes, because the Allies insist on this."

"Really? That's strange. Have our western friends and allies also a special theory on this question?"

"No, they just want to be left in peace."

"Good. And what is going to happen to the cultural exchange agreement?"

"Not much. We shall still send the Russians a quartett, and then the whole thing is packing up. You must understand, the main thing in this whole cultural exchange is..."

"...culture", said I, without thinking.

"...is that in this highly political field our civic determination shall prevent the Russians from gaining a single foot with their three state theory."

Magnificent Sentence

It would be a pity not to present to a wider public a magnificent sentence from a notably reserved article on the NATO multi-lateral force published in "The Times" of London on July 7th:

"Persuasive American experts pass lightly through the capitals of Europe, propounding a doctrine based roughly on the theory that if rape is inevitable it might be as well to take advantage of some of its more agreeable aspects."

It is a pretty simile, but I wish the august "Defence Correspondent" who penned it had been a little more precise. Since the anonymous correspondents of "The Times" may be assumed to have had a classical education, can we assume that the victim of this agreeable rape should be identified with Europa, or to be more precise West-Europa? And who is the assailant? West Germany would seem to be indicated, since the general trend of the article conveys the impression that the West German Government is the only one thoroughly enthusiastic about the multi-lateral project. Anyway, it is all something to mull about on a hot summer day, if there are any more hot days this summer.

Neo-Nazis

Open neo-nazism in West Germany is sometimes discounted as a negligible factor; by open neo-nazism I mean the activities of those groups which make no attempt to conceal direct descent from Hitler and his cohorts.

Numerically, the organised neo-nazis may not in fact seem very strong; according to an official West German Government report issued during June, there were 24,600 men and women organised in such groups in 1963. But the membership figures do not tell the whole story; they publish 52 different newspapers and magazines with a total circulation of nearly a quarter of a million, a circulation which rose by 16% in 1963. And it should be noted that these figures refer only to the groups which the West German Government itself regards as "the lunatic right-wing"; the very large "refugee" groups, nearly all of which are run by men who can quite fairly be described as neo-nazis, and the newspapers and magazines published by these groups with circulations running into many hundreds of thousands, are not included.

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